

REGION 7
CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Notes
March 28, 2007

FWP Attendance: Todd Anderson, Mike Moore, Dwayne Andrews, Brad Schmitz, Erin O'Connor, and Ginger Omland.

CAC Attendance: Warren Broeder, Julie Jordan, Todd Steadman, John Wilkinson, Greg Mohr

Absent: Larry Woolston, Mary Zeiss Stange, Art Hayes III, Rob Reukauf, Chris Pileski, Mark Forman, and Jim Schaefer

Guest Speakers: Mike Lewis and Todd Anderson

Dwayne Andrews brought the meeting to order. There were quite a few cancellations because of the weather. He introduced Mike Lewis who presented "**Wildlife Values in the West.**"

Mike Lewis works with the Responsive Management Unit within the Communication and Education Division with FWP in Helena. They do a lot of public attitude surveys.

The primary purpose of this specific study was to determine wildlife value orientations in the western United States and to identify factors influencing the presence of these orientations to gain a better understanding of the values the people hold regarding fish and wildlife.

A study was completed with cooperation from the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in which Montana participates and was conducted by Colorado State University. The goals of this study were to determine what type of values people hold toward wildlife which was focused in the Western United States. The results were divided into four value groups:

- *Utilitarians:* People come first before wildlife.
- *Mutualists:* Humans and wildlife depend on each other.
- *Pluralists:* Both Utilitarians and Mutualists values depend on the situation involved.
- *Distanced:* Usually have a low attraction for wildlife and concern for their safety around wildlife

John Wilkinson said he did not see where a person would fit into just one category.

Results of the survey suggest that with sustained population growth and an extension of these trends, we will likely see a continued erosion of Utilitarian values and a greater movement toward the Mutualist value.

Todd A. thought there would be a big change in the next 10 years. Brad S. said we are evolving to the point that it is hard for city kids to get out and be involved with any wildlife experience because of the rural parts of cities becoming more urbanized.

Todd S. thought it would be interesting to break Montana into western and eastern instead of Western United States and Montana and compare the difference based on the same value groups.

Brad S. asked what the department is going to do with this information. Dwayne said our management may change. Mike Lewis said they keep doing things like this for the department so that they stay in touch with Montanans and their changing perspectives.

Dwayne thanked Mike Lewis for coming and members took a small break.

Todd Anderson, FWP Region 7 Game Warden, gave a PowerPoint presentation on “**Poaching, Enough is Enough**,” highlighting some of the larger poaching cases in the state.

He stated that enforcement focus is on the big poaching rings. Investigations have risen by 70% since 2005. The number of licensed guides has increased 40% in the last ten years. Boat, snowmobile and OHV registrations have increased 37% in ten years.

There has been a huge increase in duplicate license fraud.

Any restitution collected goes to the state general fund and they would like to have that money dedicated to fund two more full-time investigators. There are only three in the state right now.

Assisting in solving these cases are Regional Investigators, Attorney Generals Office Prosecutor, USFWS cooperation, Department of Revenue Database Merge, Tipmont Expansion, and the Montana sportsmen.

Todd S. wondered what it would take to fund more investigators.

Mike Moore explained that it is sportsman's dollars that fund us. They control how many dollars are allocated to programs.

Brad S. asked how do we, as a Citizen's Advisory Council and as an agency, accelerate the program to get the message out during and prior to legislative sessions.

John W. said he believes there needs to be more wardens hired for more enforcement across the state.

Greg M. suggested coverage on PBS explaining the extensive poaching problem we face in Montana.

John W. said licensed outfitters want to get this stopped.

Warren Broeder asked how someone would know if he was to contact an outfitter if that outfitter was licensed or not? The answer is to check with the Board of Outfitters to see if that person is licensed.

Todd Anderson offered to do the presentation in any of the CAC members' hometowns.

Dinner Break

After dinner, Dwayne Andrews explained the handouts given to CAC members and gave a brief explanation of legislative bills. The website for legislation is [http://laws.leg.mt.gov/pls/laws07/law0203w\\$.startup](http://laws.leg.mt.gov/pls/laws07/law0203w$.startup). He also presented figures of the long term average for mule deer harvested in Region 7. Approximately 10,000 mule deer bucks and 6400 mule deer does are harvested per year. Whitetail harvest in Region 7 is about 2700 bucks and 3200 does per year.

Greg M. said that something needs to be done as a committee to try and get Todd's presentation out to everyone.

John W. said if there were more investigators to apprehend more poachers, the restitution could help fund the investigator positions.

Brad S. asked if we should revisit this at the next meeting when there is a full quorum of the Citizen's Advisory Council and Greg agreed that everyone in the council should be in attendance. The decision was made to have Todd A. give a brief presentation at the next meeting when more of the members would be in attendance and they could put something together to help get the information out to the public regarding the problem of poaching in Montana.

Todd gave the website www.montanagamewardens.org as a good informational source.

Dwayne commented that he would be sending out packets of information with statistics to the CAC members that were absent at tonight's meeting.

Public Comment

Keith Hall suggested we get the sporting groups involved and sign petitions to support the campaign to stop poaching. He agreed that it be put out to the public.

Meeting Adjourned

The next Region 7 Citizen's Advisory Council meeting will be June 20.